



Actors' Stories are a SAG Awards® Tradition

When the first Screen Actors Guild Awards® were presented on March 8, 1995, the ceremony opened with a speech by Angela Lansbury introducing the concept behind the SAG Awards and the Actor® statuette. During her remarks she shared a little of her own history as a performer: "I've been Elizabeth Taylor's sister, Spencer Tracy's mistress, Elvis' mother and a singing teapot." She ended by telling the assembled audience of SAG Awards nominees and presenters, "Tonight is dedicated to the art and craft of acting by the people who should know about it: actors. And remember, you're one too!"

Over the Years

This glimpse into an actor's life was so well received that it began a tradition of beginning each Screen Actors Guild Awards with a distinguished actor relating a brief anecdote and sharing thoughts about what the art and craft mean on a personal level.

For the first eight years of the SAG Awards, just one actor performed that customary opening. For the 9th Annual SAG Awards, however, producer Gloria Fujita O'Brien suggested a twist. She observed it would be more representative of the acting profession as a whole if several actors, drawn from all ages and backgrounds, told shorter versions of their individual journeys. To add more fun and to emphasize the universal truths of being an actor, the producers decided to keep the identities of those storytellers secret until they popped up on camera.

An August Lineage

Ever since then, the SAG Awards have begun with several of these short tales, typically signing off with his or her name and the evocative line, "I'm an Actor." So far audiences have been delighted by 78 of these unique yet quintessential Actors' Stories. A random sampling can be seen at sagawards.org.

The following is a complete alphabetical list of these special storytellers:

Alan Alda
Will Arnett
Alec Baldwin
Kathy Bates
Halle Berry
Demián Bichir
Ellen Burstyn
Rose Byrne
Steve Carell
Keisha Castle-Hughes
Tom Cavanagh
Steve Coogan
Darren Criss
Marcia Cross
Jon Cryer

Kaley Cuoco
Tyne Daly
Kristin Davis
James Denton
Edie Falco
Sally Field
Jenna Fischer
Victor Garber
Jeff Garlin
Jennifer Garner
Brad Garrett
Whoopi Goldberg
Cuba Gooding Jr.
Tony Hale
Anne Hathaway

Dennis Haysbert
Patricia Heaton
Marg Helgenberger
Hal Holbrook
Dennis Hopper
Helen Hunt
Jeremy Irons
Shirley Jones
Anil Kapoor
Michael Keaton
Ben Kingsley
Jane Krakowski
John Krasinski
Melissa Leo
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Juliette Lewis
John Lithgow
Eva Longoria
Rob Lowe
Bernie Mac
Kyle MacLachlan
Julianna Margulies
Jesse L. Martin
Jack McBrayer
S. Epatha Merkerson
Alfred Molina
Cory Monteith
Thandie Newton
Sandra Oh

Jim Parsons
David Hyde Pierce
Randy Quaid
Phylicia Rashad
Debbie Reynolds
Amber Riley
Freddie Rodriguez
Rico Rodriguez
Rebecca Romijn
Doug Savant
William Shatner
Sherri Shepherd
Jada Pinkett Smith
John Spencer

Julia Stiles
Eric Szmanda
Chris Tucker
Sofia Vergara
Jessica Walter
Emily Watson
Keith Williams
Michael Kenneth Williams
Vanessa Williams
Evan Rachel Wood
James Woods
Alfre Woodard

